

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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SUBJECT: NEWS ARTICLE ON US-UK RELATIONS

1. UNDER BY-LINE OF DAN MORGAN, FOLLOWING ARTICLE (NON-ESSENTIALS OMITTED), QTE US-BRITISH DIFFERENCES SEEN WIDER
END QTE, APPEARED IN MONDAY EDITION OF WASHINGTON POST.

QTE: RECONNAISSANCE OF MIDDLE EAST WAR BY UNITED STATES'
SR-71 HIGH-ALTITUDE SPY PLANE WAS DELAYED FOR AT LEAST THREE
DAYS LAST OCTOBER BECAUSE SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER
VEOTED BRITISH-APPROVED PLAN TO USE BASE ON ENGLISH
SOIL FOR THE FLIGHTS, ACCORDING TO MILITARY SOURCES.

QTE: SOURCES SAID THEY LATER ASCERTAINED KISSINGER CANCELED
THE PLAN BECAUSE HE WAS ANGERED BY BRITISH REQUEST THAT LONDON
GOVERNMENT'S KNOWLEDGE OF OPERATION NEVER BE REVEALED.

QTE: AT THE TIME, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, ITS ECONOMY
ROCKED BY LABOR TROUBLE AND OTHER DIFFICULTIES, WAS URGENTLY
TRYING ENSURE A CONTINUED SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM.

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QTE: US GOVERNMENT SOURCES, HOWEVER, LEAKED INFORMATION TO
THE PRESS HERE SUGGESTING BRITAIN HAD BEEN QTE UNCOOPERATIVE
END QTE THROUGHOUT CRISIS.

QTE: IN FACT, SOURCES SAID, PRIME MINISTER EDWARD HEATH HAD

PERSONALLY APPROVED SR-71'S USE OF US BASE AT MILDENHALL, IN SUFFOLK, PROVIDED US PROTECTED BRITISH FROM ARAB SUGGESTIONS THAT IT WAS AIDING ISRAEL.

QTE: PENTAGON OFFICIALS WERE SHOCKED BY KISSINGER'S ACTION. AS A RESULT OF SECRETARY'S DECISION, A MORE INTRICATE, AND COSTLY ROUTE ORIGINATING IN THE US AND INVOLVING MID-AIR FUELING OPERATIONS, HAD TO BE HASTILY DEvised. OVERALL RESULT WAS TO SHARPLY REDUCE EFFECTIVENESS OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AS TO SCOPE OF SOVIET DELIVERIES OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT TO ARABS IN FIRST WEEK OF WAR.

QTE: SR-71, A SUCCESSOR TO U-2, IS A CAMERA-EQUIPPED PLANE WHICH FLIES AT THREE TIMES SPEED OF SOUND, AT 80,000 FEET.

QTE: ON OCT. 14, WITH WAR ALREADY 12 DAYS OLD, EGYPT PROTESTED ALLEGED FLIGHTS OF AMERICAN PLANES OVER ITS TERRITORY.

QTE: IN OUTLINING INCIDENT, SOURCES IN NIXON ADMINISTRATION RELATED IT TO THE WIDENING RIFT BETWEEN US AND ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES, PARTICULARLY BRITAIN. BASIC CONCERN OF THESE DISSIDENT VOICES IS THAT WASHINGTON, UNDER KISSINGER'S GUIDANCE, IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY MORE ISOLATED FROM TRADITIONAL ALLIES.

QTE: US OFFICIALS SAY THAT THESE RELATIONS ARE NOW CHARGED WITH EMOTION, AND STEADILY WORSENING. MOST OF BITTERNESS TOWARD THE EUROPEANS ON THE PART OF TOP US POLICY MAKERS, SUCH AS KISSINGER, HAS BEEN DIRECTED AT BRITAIN.

QTE: LAST SEPTEMBER, BRITAIN JOINED OTHER EIGHT EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES IN DRAFTING A PAPER THAT DESCRIBED NINE AS QTE DISTINCT ENTITY. END QTE. KISSINGER TOLD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRIENDS THAT PAPER WAS UNACCEPTABLE, AND EXPRESSED IRRITATION THAT EUROPEANS WERE QTE GANGING UP END QTE ON US.

QTE: ACCORDING TO SOURCES, KISSINGER WAS PARTICULARLY ANNOYED AT BRITAIN'S ALLEGED REFUSAL TO FIGHT FOR AMERICAN VERSION OF JOINT EUROPEAN-AMERICAN STATEMENT OF LONG-RANGE PRINCIPLES-A KEY ELEMENT OF NIXON ADMINISTRATION'S QTE YEAR OF EUROPE END QTE.

QTE: AT ONE POINT, KISSINGER ORDERED THAT THE 23-YEAR OLD BRITISH-AMERICAN SYSTEM OF EXCHANGING OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION BE QTE REVIEWED END QTE. IN HIS TALKS WITH

BRITISH OFFICIALS, KISSINGER LEFT IMPRESSION THAT THE FLOW OF INTELLIGENCE TO LONDON MIGHT BE CHOKED OFF UNLESS

HEATH TOOK A MORE PRO-AMERICAN POSITION IN COMMON MARKET DISCUSSIONS.

QTE: SINCE THIS WARNING, INTERNATIONAL FREE-FOR-ALL FOR SCARCE OIL SUPPLIES HAS ADDED TO ANGLO-AMERICAN TENSIONS.

QTE: US POLICY MAKERS SAY THEY ARE ANGRY AT BRITAIN'S EFFORTS TO CONCLUDE DEALS WITH IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA EXCHANGING GUARANTEES OF OIL FOR INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY.

QTE: AT A PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 10, AT WHICH HE PLEADED FOR SUPPORT FOR HIS PROPOSED FEB. 11 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE OF OIL CONSUMING COUNTRIES, KISSINGER SAID: QTE UNRESTRICTED BILATERAL COMPETITION WILL BE RUINOUS FOR ALL....END QTE.

QTE: SUBSEQUENTLY, HEATH GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATED A BILATERAL DEAL WITH THE SHAH OF IRAN PROVIDING FOR 100,000 BARRELS OF OIL A DAY AT SEVEN DOLLARS A BARREL IN EXCHANGE FOR PRODUCTS AND PLANTS.

QTE: BRITAIN IS SUPPORTING KISSINGER'S CALL FOR A CONFERENCE OF CONSUMING NATIONS HERE. HOWEVER, BRITISH OFFICIALS WANT QUICK FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE WITH THE ARABS, TO AVOID ANY IMPRESSION OF CONSUMERS MONOPOLY, RATHER THAN THREE-MONTH INTERIM PERIOD WHICH KISSINGER FAVORS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QTE: AMERICAN OFFICIALS HERE CHARGE THAT THE FRANCO-BRITISH POLICY OF MAKING DEALS WITH THE ARABS IS SHORTSIGHTED, BECAUSE ONLY UNITED STATES HAS ABILITY TO GUARANTEE LONG-TERM STABILITY OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND PERSIAN GULF OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

QTE: BUT BRITISH OFFICIALS ARGUE THAT THEIR GOVERNMENT IS ONLY FOLLOWING A POLICY OF NATIONAL SELF-INTEREST AND SURVIVAL.

QTE: BRITISH DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON ARE MYTHIFIED BY HOSTILITY THEY FIND AMONG TOP AMERICAN POLICY MAKERS. THEY BELIEVE TONE FOR IT IS SET BY KISSINGER, WHOM SOME OF THEM REGARD AS A QTE. FRANCOPHILE UNQTE.

QTE: ON JAN. 26, TIMES OF LONDON OBJECTED TO QTE DR. KISSINGER'S PRACTICE OF SEEING (FOREIGN MINISTER) SIR ALEX (SIC) DOUGLAS-HOME IN A ROOM AT LONDON AIRPORT END QTE AS QTE TIRESOME AND SOMEWHAT DISCOURTEOUS. END QTE.

QTE: IT SUGGESTED THAT QTE PERHAPS THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIS STANDARD OF VALUES. END QTE.

QTE: BRITISH DIPLOMATS ALSO FEEL THAT THEY WERE VICTIMS OF A SMEAR CAMPAIGN DURING THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. REPORTS THAT LONDON HAD QTE REFUSED END QTE TO PROPOSE A CEASE-FIRE RESOLUTION AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON SUNDAY AFTER THE WAR BEGAN IS STRONGLY DENIED. BRITISH SOURCES SAY THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO, SIR PHILLIP ADAMS, TWICE RAISED PROPOSAL WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT, AT KISSINGER'S URGING. THEY ASSERT THAT SADAT TOLD BRITISH EMISSARY THAT HE WOULD GET THE CHINESE TO VETO ANY SUCH RESOLUTION.

QTE: IN DESCRIBING KISSINGER'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE RECENTLY DEPARTED BRITISH AMBASSADOR, THE EARL OF CROMER, AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID: QTE HE TREATED CROMER LIKE AN ERRAND BOY...AS FOR LORD CROMER, HE NEVER FELT THAT KISSINGER CARED ABOUT ANGLO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. END QTE

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QTE: BRITISH DIPLOMATS SAY HOWEVER, THAT DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES R. SCHLESINGER HAS ALSO BEEN CRITICAL OF BRITISH POLICIES ON A WIDE NUMBER OF ISSUES.

QTE: A SENATE COMMITTEE STUDY RELEASED LAST YEAR NOTED THAT BRITAIN IS THE NATO COUNTRY MOST OPPOSED TO THE CURRENT EAST-WEST TALKS ON A REDUCTION OF FORCES IN EUROPE.

QTE: TALKS ARE A KEY ELEMENT IN AMERICAN DETENTE POLICY, AND NIXON ADMINISTRATION VIEWS NEGOTIATIONS AS VITAL FOR COUNTERING CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE FOR UNILATERAL US TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM EUROPE.

QTE: BRITAIN HAS ALSO TAKEN AN INDEPENDENT LINE AT EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE TALKS AT GENEVA. IT PUTS MORE EMPHASIS THAN EITHER WASHINGTON OR MOSCOW ON QTE CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES END QTE SUCH AS EXCHANGING OBSERVERS AT MILITARY MANEUVERS AND GIVING PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF SUCH EXERCISES.

QTE: ALTHOUGH US APPLAUDED BRITAIN'S ENTRY INTO EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET ON JAN. 1, 1973, AMERICAN OFFICIALS NOW INDICATE EXTREME DISPLEASURE AT BRITAIN'S CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH FRANCE.

QTE: THERE IS THIS GENERAL PROBLEM OF THEM ALWAYS BEING WITH THE FRENCH, UNQTE SAID A SUB-CABINET OFFICIAL. QTE THERE IS A FEELING IN THIS GOVERNMENT THAT HEATH IS SOME KIND OF A DECADENT GAULLIST. THE FRENCH POISON EVERYBODY'S

WELL, AND THAT'S NOT GOOD COMPANY TO BE IN. UNQTE.

QTE: ALL OF A SUDDEN, BRITISH ARE OPPOSITE US AT A LOT OF TABLES, END QTE, HE CONTINUED.

QTE: THE FREQUENTLY VOICED EXPECTATIONS OF FRANCE'S LATE PRESIDENT CHARLES DE GAULLE THAT BRITAIN WOULD BE QTE TROJAN HORSE END QTE IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAVE NOT BEEN FULFILLED, OFFICIALS HERE CONCEDE.

QTE: THE BRITISH ARE METICULOUS ABOUT THEIR AGREEMENTS AND TREATIES, END QTE, SAID ONE US OFFICIALS. QTE THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEANS THAT WHEN THEY ENTERED THE COMMON MARKET, THEY FOLLOWED THE RULES, AND RATHER SUDDENLY END QTE.

QTE: LAST WEEK FOR INSTANCE, AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT IN LONDON WHO SOUGHT INFORMATION FROM A BRITISH COLLEAGUE WAS TOLD HE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR AN ANSWER UNTIL AFTER A COMMON MARKET MEETING IN FEBRUARY.

QTE: THAT JUST WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IN THE OLD DAYS OF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP, END QTE SAID AN OFFICIAL IN WASHINGTON.

QTE: NONGOVERNMENTAL ANALYSTS, AS WELL AS MIDDLE LEVEL FOREIGN POLICY TECHNICIANS INSIDE THE GOVERNMENT, ARE CONCERNED ABOUT PRESENT HARD LINE TOWARD LONDON.

QTE: WE HAVE ALWAYS EXPECTED BRITAIN TO FOLLOW OUR LEAD AUTOMATICALLY, END QTE SAID ANDREW J. PIERRE, A SPECIALIST ON EUROPEAN-AMERICAN AFFAIRS AT THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS IN NEW YORK CITY. QTE WHENEVER WE WANTED SOMETHING DONE AROUND THE WORLD, WE WENT TO THEM AND SAID COME ALONG WITH US. NOW THEY SEE THEIR ROLE AS GETTING ALONG WITH FRENCH AND GERMANS. END QTE.

QTE: AMERICAN EXPERTS SYMPATHETIC TO BRITAIN'S PROBLEMS FEAR THAT THE HARD LINE COULD EVENTUALLY DO SERIOUS DAMAGE TO A RELATIONSHIP WHICH IS STILLSPECIAL IN MANY WAYS, AND USEFUL TO THE US.

QTE: AN EXAMPLE OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP HAS EXISTED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN SINCE 1966, WHEN BRITAIN PULLED OUT ITS FORCES AND SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE US MAKING CERTAIN BRITISH-OWNED ISLANDS AVAILABLE TO WASHINGTON FOR DEFENSE PURPOSES.

QTE: DEFENSE DEPT. IS CURRENTLY SEEKING BRITISH PERMISSION TO SPEND 20 MILLION DOLLARS TO EXPAND NAVAL AND AIR

SUPPORT FACILITIES ON THE TINY ISLAND OF DIEGO GARCIA,

AS A COUNTER TO POSSIBLE SOVIET NAVAL EXPANSION IN THE
INDIAN OCEAN.

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QTE: IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO OUR
RELATIONS WITH THE BRITISH, END QTE SAID ONE OFFICIAL.
QTE I PERSONALLY THINK THINGS WILL IMPROVE FROM NOW ON.
AFTER ALL, WE JUST DON'T THINK OF EACH OTHER AS BEING LIKE
ANY OTHER COUNTRY. THERE'S COMMON LANGUAGE AND TRADITION.
WHEN YOU SIT DOWN AND START TALKING WITH THE BRITISH, YOU
JUST CAN'T HELP RINGING ALL KINDS OF OLD BELLS. END QTE.
KISSINGER

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